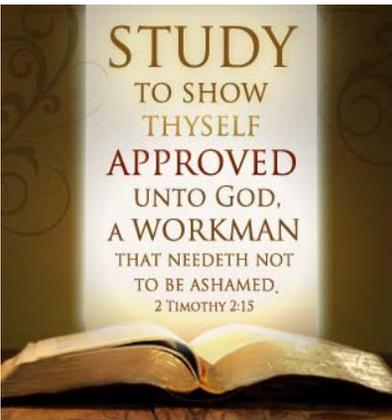


The Vistoso Voice

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We are halfway through our fall eight-week course of study in the New Testament Books of Titus and Philemon, and new members are always welcome. The studies are held each Tuesday morning beginning at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall (women) and large classroom (men). All it takes to join the study is to come



on Tuesday morning. If you would like to work on the current lesson in advance of your first Tuesday morning session, you can purchase a Study Book for \$5.00 at the Church office.

The current studies will continue through the month of November, with no class

scheduled on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, November 21.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WELCOME DINNER FOR
PETER AND CINDY TRANVIK

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER, 29
BEGINNING AT 5:30

Peter will begin his work on our ministerial staff in the middle of November.

The main dish for the dinner will be lasagna. You will be asked to sign up to bring either a side dish or a dessert to complete the menu.

VCC STITCHERS

The VCC Stitchers will not hold their regular monthly gatherings in November and December. On January 24, the group will resume their once a month gatherings for fun and fellowship while pursuing their stitching specialties—quilting, crocheting, knitting, and other stitch crafts.



VISTOSO CHURCH

Telephone: 520-825-0652
e-mail: vistosocc@icloud.com
Office Hours:
Tue—Thur: 10 am—2 pm
Friday: 8 am—12 noon

PASTOR: KEVIN REDIG
Emergency: 520-403-4088

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE CHRISTMAS JOY!

Love Thy Neighbor. Christmas is just around the corner and for Love Thy Neighbor Ministries that means beginning the process of securing gifts for nursing home residents through the *Blessings in a Bag* program. On November 19, the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall will have ornaments, each with the name of a nursing home resident and a list of needed gift items.



Love Thy Neighbor Ministries is grateful for the generosity of the VCC congregation last year which helped them provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of needy nursing home residents.

Operation Christmas Child. VCC has the opportunity again this year to provide children around the world with gift shoeboxes, that also contain the Gospel message. Sharon Stark and Audrey Johnson will be in the Church foyer, for three more Sundays in November 5, 12, and 19, to distribute empty boxes and collect the filled boxes. They will also have information on suggested items to fill those boxes.



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday, November 19, VCC will have a special Thanksgiving service and Fellowship. We will not have a mid-week service on November 22.



From the Pastor's Desk

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. Romans 15:7

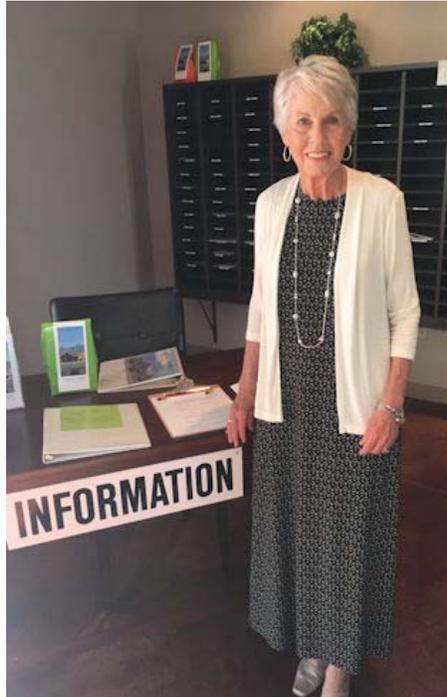
What a Blessing to Have Visitors! How Best to Welcome Them?

I think we would all agree that we would like to do whatever we can to welcome those visiting our church. The reason is simple—we think we have something special in terms of worship, fellowship, and an emphasis upon God's Word! That being the case, we are desirous of others joining us in order that the lost might be convicted of their need of a Savior and those who are saved might grow in grace and knowledge. Given these truths, here is our challenge: How do we go about welcoming those whom the Lord brings to VCC as visitors?

Some Visitors are Wary

Many of you have ideas and suggestions on ways for us to be welcoming—often things that have worked in other Churches. I know this because you have shared your suggestions with me. You might be surprised to know that we have tried most of the ideas and suggestions over the course of the past 12 years that I have been at VCC and have found that they do not work in our setting.

Often people do not want to be identified as visitors or to be singled out, and they typically don't want to provide any kind of personal information. It is my belief that many of those who visit us have become wary of church motives. They still want to be involved with a church, that is why they visit, but they want time to check us out and see if we suit their preferences before they make any kind of commitment.



Kathryn Farris (above) is available each Sunday to answer questions at the Visitor Information desk. She also has information bags to give visitors who stop by the desk.

In addition, we always have ushers and greeters, like Bill and Zamie Studt (below), in the foyer to welcome folks to the service.



One piece of evidence to support my contention is the large number of people who tell me they are so blessed by the fact that we do not take up an offering or talk about money. That tells me these people have been pressured regarding giving in the past and they don't like it.

Having said this, I think it is very important that we avoid any of the stereotypical things that churches do to welcome new people, lest we turn people away or come across as phony. Our focus on teaching, worship, and fellowship is putting our best foot forward—perhaps we need to let it communicate for us.

Let's Try a New Approach

So back to our original question: what can we do to welcome those who visit?

I am not saying we shouldn't do anything; rather, I am simply suggesting that we honor the mindset of those who are visiting and instead take a different approach. By the way, the Worship Committee has oversight on how we go about welcoming visitors, and, thanks to their work, our Visitor's Desk is back in operation. It is currently a ministry of Kathryn Farris, and I am sure she would be happy for help if you are willing to volunteer one or more Sundays a month.

Further, I have four suggestions, most of them from Kathryn Farris, of ways that we can develop a VCC approach to welcoming visitors. Consider these four suggestions on the next page.



From the Pastor's Desk Continued

1. Try a new greeting. When you see someone you don't know on Sunday morning, welcome them. Now, I know we have so many new people attending that many of you have made the mistake of welcoming someone you thought was a visitor, only to find out they had been coming for six months. Just change your greeting a bit. How about something like:

*"We haven't met before, my name is _____.
We've been attending VCC for _____,
and have been blessed to be here."*

In response to such a greeting, you are very likely to get both a name and how long the person has been coming to VCC. You'll know right away if you happen to be dealing with a visitor.

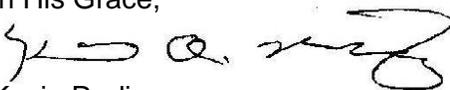
2. Invite them to join you. If it is someone visiting, then invite them to join us for fellowship. If it is following the service, go ahead and walk them right into the Fellowship Hall. On the way, you can point out the publication table and other things of interest. Once in the Fellowship Hall, you can help them navigate their way to get coffee, goodies, and a seat at a table.

3. Watch for those needing help. We have many visitors head into the Fellowship Hall following the service—which is great. But when they step into a full room, visitors do face a pretty significant challenge. What to do next, where to go, where to sit? If you see someone scanning the room with a blank or anxious look on their face, here is what I suggest. Get up and offer to help them get coffee, a snack, and find a place to sit. And here is the really hard part. I know many of you enjoy sitting with the same group each week. But if you see someone who appears to be new trying to figure out where to sit, get up and offer them your place. After all, you have a good group at your table and visitors will be glad to meet them. And, you know everybody already, so you won't have any trouble finding a new spot.

4. Make introductions. Finally, if you are blessed enough to welcome new visitors to the church and have a chance to talk with them, feel free to make a point of introducing them to me. If I see you standing with someone I don't know, I'll know exactly what you are trying to do. I will make a point of heading your way or you can bring them to me. I am always happy to meet visitors, and people often appreciate having a chance to talk with the pastor.

As you know, we are a very unique fellowship—one with the right balance of a God-honoring focus and love for others. As a result, many visitors, if they get to know us, want to become part of our congregation. To that end, I encourage all of you to do what you can to welcome those the Lord brings our way. The testimony of our love for the Lord, our desire to serve Him, and the Holy Spirit will do the rest.

In His Grace,


Kevin Redig



Emmie Lou Brunson	11/04
Marsha Slade	11/04
Jim Elliott	11/04
Genenne Sexton	11/05
Gail Markwell	11/06
Ingolf Wallow	11/06
Paul Matthews	11/07
Phoebe Bax	11/11
Ken Fahl	11/14
Maureen Tobin	11/14
Landon Coleman	11/16
Charlene VanPelt	11/17
Peggy Thurmond	11/24
Bill Carson	11/25
Vic Wetmore	11/25
Glenann Hanson	11/26
Lee Jacobson	11/27
Joy Knepper	11/29



Paul & Ardith Matthews 3 years	11/07
Robert & Patty Lott 35 years	11/12
Tom & Sharon Crozier 54 years	11/15
Jerry & Patti Wagner 52 years	11/18
Jim & Patty Elliott 59 years	11/23
Rags & Millie Ragland 15 years	11/30

To be included on our Birthday and Anniversary lists, we need your information. Fill out a form at the Information Desk.

VCC MISSIONS

Casa Hogar de Gracia. RAVAH Ministries endeavors to build cross-cultural relationships between Mexican and American churches for the purpose of evangelism, discipleship training, and growth in spiritual leadership. RAVAH has partnered with Casa Hogar children's home in San Pedro el Sauceto, Mexico, to provide a Christian environment to raise children entrusted to them by the State. The children, shown at right, have parents who have been killed or are in prison as a result of the drug trade. Because Casa Hogar is a religious entity the Mexican government offers no financial support. The Missions Committee has approved Point of Need support on a quarterly basis through 2018 specifically designated for food for the children.



The children, shown at right, have parents who have been killed or are in prison as a result of the drug trade. Because Casa Hogar is a religious entity the Mexican government offers no financial support. The Missions Committee has approved Point of Need support on a quarterly basis through 2018 specifically designated for food for the children.

Hurricane Relief. A \$1000 donation from VCC's Missions funds was made recently to Samaritan's Purse to be used for Hurricane Relief.

Philippine's Christmas Children's Ministry. Barbara Altork is a Wycliffe missionary with SIL in North Carolina. For 18 years she has traveled to the Philippines, using her own funds, to participate in a children's Christmas ministry based upon Child Evangelism Fellowship's programs. VCC is blessed to assist Barbara with funds to purchase gift packages for 50 of the 700 children expected to participate.

Urgent Prayer Request. Pastor Fikret Bocek, who is working on the translation of the Bible into modern Turkish with the help of VCC mission funds, has an urgent prayer request for God's protection for all Christians in Turkey. He also asks for prayer for Caleb, an American elder of the Izmir Protestant Church who has recently come under the scrutiny of the Turkish police. This is what happened to American Andrew Bronson who has been imprisoned for a year by the Turkish government



Richard and Tricia Wagner, Flying H Youth Ranch. Richard Wagner, shown at right with one of the boys, asks that we pray for a group of young men who are really struggling. Almost half of the boys are on discipline right now, which makes things difficult for the boys and the staff. Also pray for the staff to have His strength, love, patience, and wisdom to reach these boys through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Also please continue to prayer for Richard's eyesight. He has a chronic condition that has compromised the vision in his right eye and now threatens his good left eye.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Patrick and Barbara Stone.

When the Stones were ready to retire full time, they decided their winter home in Yuma was too hot. So they came to Tucson, bought a house, and began looking for a Church. They had friends attending VCC, so they visited. They liked the service, including the use of traditional hymns, and Kevin's preaching. Now, they are both in the choir and happy to be members.

Before they retired, Barbara was a home health and hospice nurse and Patrick was a psychologist. Patrick, who was a vet himself, worked mostly with Viet Nam veterans, but he also taught psychology. In several trips to Kenya, he was able to establish the psychology department at Daystar University in Nairobi. He has also written two books, one on Viet Nam and one on Kenya.

